

## Message Text

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ORIGIN INR-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 ARA-06 DHA-02 SS-15 SSO-00  
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NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 TRSE-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00  
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APPROVED BY EUR/RPM:HAHOLMES  
ARA/PPC:AWOODRUFF  
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D/HA:KHILL  
S/S:MR REDDY

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TO USMISSION NATO IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 094003

HOLD FOR OPENING OF BUSINESS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: NATO, PFOR, XM

SUBJECT: NATO EXPERTS' REPORT ON THE SITUATION IN LATIN  
AMERICA

REF: C-M(77)19

THERE FOLLOW PROPOSED REMARKS FOR MISSION'S USE DURING NAC  
CONSIDERATION OF NATO EXPERTS' GROUP REPORT ON THE  
SITUATION IN LATIN AMERICA.

-- THE REPORT RIGHTLY NOTES THE CHANGING CHARACTER OF INTER-  
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AMERICAN RELATIONS AND, PARTICULARLY, THE GROWING  
DIVERSITY OF INTERESTS AND OBJECTIVES BETWEEN SMALL AND  
LARGE STATES IN THE REGION. AS A WHOLE THE REGION IS NOT  
ONLY MORE RESPONSIVE TO GLOBAL FACTORS, BUT IS INCREASINGLY  
MORE ATTUNED TO THE SAME NORTH-SOUTH PROBLEMS THAT DOMINATE  
GLOBAL FORUMS.

-- WITH REGARD TO INTER-AMERICAN RELATIONS, PRESIDENT CARTER ON APRIL 14 DELIVERED BEFORE THE OAS HIS FIRST MAJOR STATEMENT ON THE LATIN AMERICAN POLICY. THE PRESIDENT EMPHASIZED THAT THE BASIC TENETS OF US POLICY WOULD BE: (1) RESPECT FOR THE INDIVIDUALITY AND SOVEREIGNTY OF EACH NATION; (2) RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS;

AND (3) COOPERATION IN THE SEARCH FOR SOLUTIONS TO PRESSING ECONOMIC PROBLEMS.

-- PRESS AND OFFICIAL RESPONSE FROM LATIN AMERICA HAS BEEN LARGELY POSITIVE. THE LATINS ARE PLEASED WITH BOTH THE EXPRESSION OF PRESIDENTIAL INTEREST IN HEMISPHERIC AFFAIRS AND WITH THE SUBSTANCE OF THE PRESIDENT'S REMARKS. PARTICULARLY WELL RECEIVED WAS THE PRESIDENT'S REJECTION OF A SINGLE U.S. POLICY FOR ALL LATIN AMERICA. THE LATINS HAVE INTERPRETED THE PRESIDENT'S STATEMENTS ON THIS MATTER AS A COMMITMENT TO DEAL WITH THE REGION'S NATIONS ACCORDING TO THE PARTICULAR CONDITIONS AND NEEDS OF EACH, AND NOT AS A U.S. EFFORT TO "DIVIDE AND CONQUER" OR IGNORE ALL BUT THE MOST IMPORTANT COUNTRIES.

-- WITH REGARD TO BRAZIL, PRESIDENT GEISEL ON APRIL 14 IMPOSED SEVERAL CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS WHICH WILL TIGHTEN THE EXECUTIVE'S CONTROL OVER THE GOVERNING PROCESS AND INHIBIT FURTHER GROWTH OF THE OPPOSITION PARTY. GEISEL INSTITUTED THE CHANGES IN ELECTION RULES DURING A TWO-WEEK LONG ENFORCED RECESS OF THE CONGRESS FOLLOWING A CONFRONTATION ARISING FROM THE OPPOSITION  
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PARTY'S BLOCKAGE OF AN ADMINISTRATION-SPONSORED AMENDMENT ON JUDICIAL REFORM. THE ISSUES INVOLVED ARE ALMOST ENTIRELY DOMESTIC IN NATURE, EXCEPT INsofar AS THEY MIGHT EFFECT INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS CONCERNS, AND THE EFFECT ON BRAZIL'S RELATIONS WITH THE U.S. AND OTHER MEMBERS OF THE ALLIANCE WILL PROBABLY BE LIMITED. THE MORE DAMAGING ISSUE, AS REGARDS U.S.-BRAZIL RELATIONS, WILL BE THE QUESTION OF NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION. WE INTEND TO ADHERE FIRMLY TO OUR POLICY.

-- WITH REGARD TO HUMAN RIGHTS, WE BELIEVE INCREASED INTERNATIONAL PRESSURE MAY WELL BRING ABOUT AN IMPROVED SITUATION IN THIS REGION. MOREOVER, WE HAVE REASON TO FEEL THAT OUR EFFORTS WILL NOT RESULT IN LONG-TERM DAMAGE TO RELATIONS. AT THE SAME TIME, WE REALIZE THAT IN COUNTRIES WHERE THE QUESTION OF ABUSES IS LINKED IN THE PERCEPTION OF THE OFFENDER WITH INTERNAL SECURITY ISSUES, THE PROSPECTS OF INDUCING CHANGE ARE REDUCED.

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## Message Attributes

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